

### REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1-8, 16, and 22-26 are being amended.

Drawings - Figure 3 has been amended to show a mold 15 and 1 sheet of drawings is presented herewith for approval.

The applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the thoroughness of the review of the specification, claims, and drawings. Most of the Examiner's suggestions have been adopted and a discussion of the suggestions not adopted is included below.

### Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to for failing to show every feature of the claims. The enclosed new Figure 3 shows a mold 15 having an air vent 9 as discussed in detail in the original specification and claims. No new matter is being presented.

With respect to the "conductive strips extending upwardly," that language is being removed from the claims.

With respect to claim 17, Figure 2 already shows a recess 8 in a surface of a conductive strip 3. Page 4, lines 1-7 discuss the hole or recess 8. The applicant notes that a recess is a type of hole, and thus, there is no inconsistency in referring to a hole or recess of Figure 2.

With respect to claim 22, that claim is being amended to recite that the hole is spaced a predetermined distance away from an air vent. Such language is supported by the discussion of the recess or hole 8 and the air vent 9 on page 4, lines 1-5.

For the foregoing reasons, all of the features of the claims are supported by the drawings.

### Specification Objections

The specification was objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

With respect to claim 3, the language of original claim 3 is being added to the Detailed Discussion section at page 4, between lines 12 and 13.

With respect to claim 16, the "extending upwardly" language of the claim is being removed.

With respect to claim 17, page 4, lines 1-7 and Figure 2 show the hole or recess 8 in one of the conductive strips 3.

With respect to claim 22, the claim is being amended to recite that the hole is spaced a predetermined distance away from an air vent. Such language is supported by the discussion of the recess or hole 8 and the air vent 9 on page 4, lines 1-5.

### **Claim Objections**

Claims 1, 8, 16, and 23-26 were objected to for informalities. With respect to the objections to claims 1 and 23-26, the claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

With respect to claim 8, the preamble is being amended to recite "an integrated circuit package" to be consistent with claims 9-15. Given that claims 8-15 recite "a semiconductor device," the "integrated circuit package" seems more descriptive of the invention than "a structure."

With respect to claim 16, the Examiner's suggested change has not been made. It is not necessary for the invention for each conductive strip to include an air vent zone. For example, Figure 1 shows numerous conductive strips 3 substantially surrounding the semiconductor devices 2, but not all of the strips 3 define the air vent zones 5.

For the foregoing reasons, the claims as amended are correct.

### **Section 112 Rejections**

Claims 1-7 and 16-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The Examiner asserted that the phrase "said air vent being positioned between an upper and a lower surface of said frame" in claim 1, lines 4-5 is unclear because the specification discloses a hole 8 between the surfaces but not an air vent. On the contrary, the specification, at page 2, lines 12-17, does disclose such an air vent. Further, new Figure 3 shows that the air vent

9 of the mold 15 extends between the surfaces of the frame 1 and allows the resin 10 to seep out of the air vent 9 onto the frame 1, as is consistent with the discussion at page 4, lines 13-18.

With respect to the placement of the through hole in claim 1, the claim is being amended to recite that the through hole is adjacent to an outlet of the air vent. The language "adjacent to" is believed to be broader than "at", so no narrowing amendment is being made. The drawings clearly show a hole 8 adjacent to an air vent 9.

With respect to the rejection of claim 4, the claim is being amended to recite that the 'air vent, in combination with said hole having an ellipsoidal section, gives rise to a flash of resin on the upper surface of said frame and to a flash of resin on the lower surface of said frame, with an overall thickness equal to or exceeding 1 mm." The new language more clearly recites the invention, and is supported by the discussion on pages 4-5 regarding the embodiment shown in Figures 5-6.

With respect to claim 16, the phrase "peripheral extrusion areas" is supported by the disclosure of the peripheral zones 5, which are discussed on page 3 and shown in Figures 1-2.

With respect to claims 24 and 26, those claims are being amended as suggested by the Examiner.

### **Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 8-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,469,369 to Lee. Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lee.

Claims 8-10 and 12-15 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Lee because Lee is not prior art. Lee was filed in the US on June 30, 2000. The present application claims priority from Italian Patent Application No. M12000A 001719, filed on July 27, 2000. Enclosed is an accurate English translation of that priority Italian application, and thus, the priority claim has been perfected.

Also enclosed is a Rule 131 Declaration signed by one of the inventors, Andrea Giovanni Cigada, stating that the invention was made prior to June 30, 2000 and diligently reduced to practice with the filing of the priority Italian application on July 27, 2000. Attached

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to the Declaration is a letter dated June 5, 2000 enclosing a draft Italian application, which became the priority Italian application. Accurate English translations of the letter and draft Italian application are also enclosed.

In view of the discussion above and the enclosures, claims 8-10 and 12-15 are in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Giovanni Cigada et al.

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Enclosure:

Amended Figure 3  
Rule 131 Declaration  
Statement and English Translation of Application  
Letter to inventor and draft of Italian Application

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